

Census Frequently Asked Questions

Why does the County conduct a census? Why should people participate?

Rocky View County receives some grants from the Provincial or Federal government based on the number of people counted in the census. The County also uses the census information to better plan for services such as police, fire, roads and recreation. Ensuring you are counted is an important step in helping municipal services get to you and your family.

When does the census occur?

Typically the census runs throughout the month of May, with all census questions asked of the household as it was on one specific day, typically April 30 of the census year. This will ensure data consistency with previous censuses.

How many residents receive a census letter?

All Rocky View County households receive information about completing the census.

How is the census conducted?

In 2018, our most recent census year, there were three ways to complete the census: online, in person at our office or through an enumerator. Completing the census online is the most cost effective way for the County to gather this information.

Who is counted?

- All persons who usually live in the dwelling even if they are temporarily away (business trip or at school) such as college/university students who have not established a usual residence elsewhere.
- Any persons staying at or visiting the dwelling if they have no other usual home.
- In the case of joint custody, children staying at the dwelling at the time of the census.
- Hotel residents and employees who have no usual home elsewhere.
- Persons in the Armed Forces even if away on tour/rotation.
- Infants born before or on the specified census day.
- Deceased persons who were alive on the specified census day.
- Any persons who usually live in the dwelling but are currently in an institution (such as a hospital or correctional institution). However, if they have been in the institution for more than six months, do not include them as a usual resident of the dwelling.

Do NOT include:

- Temporary residents who have a usual residence elsewhere.
- Members of the household who are now in an institution and have been there for the past six months or longer.
- Visitors and those persons who have a usual residence elsewhere.
- Infants born after the specified census day.
- College/university students who have a usual residence elsewhere.
- Members of the household who live elsewhere.
- Persons living at temporary residences such as vacation homes.

What does “usual” residence mean?

A person’s “usual” residence is where the person lives and sleeps and when a person is absent from it, the person intends to return. A person can only have **one** place of usual residence. A student who is attending an educational institution, temporarily renting accommodation or who has family members who are residents in Rocky View County may be counted as a usual resident of the County.

Who can I contact if I have questions about the census?

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Census Office at rcensus@rockyview.ca or 403-230-1401.

How will I be able to identify a County census enumerator if they come to my door?

All census workers will present County-issued identification and will also be wearing green vests with the County logo on the front with “**CENSUS**” written on the back. We encourage you to confirm their identification before you answer questions.

Why does the County ask for the age of the resident?

The knowledge of age distribution is required to plan for programs and services. Other characteristics of the census are much more meaningful when studied in conjunction with age. School districts also use this information to project student enrolment as well as plan for their facility requirements.

The age categories mirror the federal census question for comparative reasons. Those that indicate they are 14 years old and over (the legal employment age in Alberta) will be asked additional questions regarding employment status or place of work.

Why does the County ask for the resident’s employment status?

Rocky View County analyzes work-related activities and studies labour resources and markets in the County. We also analyze how other potential challenges can arise related to employment.

“Full-time” means you are employed for 30 or more hours a week.

“Part-time” means you are working for less than 30 hours a week.

“Seasonal, casual or temporary” means you are filling a position for a pre-determined period of time or a pre-determined task, or are engaged for relief.

“Homemaker” means you manage your family household as a principal occupation and you do not collect an income.

“Retired” means you are no longer working.

“Extended Leave” means you are away from your primary job while maintaining the status of an employee (paid or unpaid leave).

“Lock Out” means you are withheld work during a labour dispute.

“Strike” means you are unable to work due to a work stoppage caused by a mass refusal of employees to work.

Why does the County ask where the resident works?

Rocky View County uses this data to plan for current and future transportation routes and flows.

“Rocky View County” includes all areas within the geographic boundaries of Rocky View County and includes the hamlets of Balzac, Bearspaw, Beaupre, Bottrel, Bragg Creek, Cochrane Lake, Conrich, Dalemead, Dalroy, Delacour, Indus, Janet, Kathryn, Keoma, Langdon, Madden, Springbank.

“Multiple municipalities in the surrounding area” means you are mobile and work in many municipalities in the greater region including Rocky View County, Calgary, Airdrie, Chestermere, Cochrane, Crossfield, Irricana, Beiseker, Okotoks etc.

“Other areas in Alberta” means you work in another municipality in Alberta but outside of the greater surrounding Rocky View County area (for e.g.: Fort McMurray or Edmonton).

“Outside of Alberta” means you work outside of Alberta either in another province or country.

Why does the County ask if the household made \$10,000 gross income or more from the sale of agricultural products?

Rocky View County uses this information to plan for agricultural needs and identify trends impacting local producers. **“Gross income”** means your total personal income before taking taxes or deductions taking into account of a company's revenue minus cost of goods sold. Examples of agricultural products include but are not limited to: the sale of meat; livestock or products grown on the property; and rental of pasture or cropland.

Is my information secure online?

All census information provided online is encrypted during transmission and is stored in a secure database. The amalgamated information provided from all households is stored for long term management and data report generation purposes. The retention of the information is in compliance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

If I provide my information to a census worker at the door, how can I be sure my information is safe?

During training, census workers are instructed on the importance of ensuring the information being collected is protected. Census workers are aware that the census information provided cannot be shared with anyone other than a member of their census team. Each census worker endorses a “Statement of Census Worker” to reinforce these expectations.